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**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA**

Jason Brown.

No. CV-13-00990-PHX-DGC

**Plaintiff,**

## ORDER

V.

Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield, et al.

### Defendants.

Defendant has filed a motion to dismiss for lack of personal jurisdiction. Doc. 7. The issue is fully briefed. Doc. 16; Doc. 19. No party has requested oral arguments. The Court will deny the motion.

## I. Background.

Plaintiff Jason Brown enrolled in the PPO Blue Access 90 Individual Insurance Contract issued by Blue Cross Blue Shield (“Defendant”).<sup>1</sup> Doc. 16 at 6. Defendant is a Missouri corporation with its principle place of business in St. Louis, Missouri. Doc 7-1 at 2. Defendant issued the policy to Plaintiff while he resided in Missouri. *Id.*

On September 24, 2011, Plaintiff sought treatment at Rosewood Psychiatric Unit (“Rosewood”) in Wickenburg, Arizona. Doc. 16 at 6. He sought treatment for bulimia nervosa, depression, hypertension, diabetes mellitus, and tachycardia. *Id.* at 7. Defendant authorized and paid in-network rates for Plaintiff’s inpatient treatment at

<sup>1</sup> Blue Cross Blue Shield is the trade name under which Health Alliance Life Insurance Company operates. Doc. 7-1 at 1.

Rosewood from September 24-30, 2011.<sup>2</sup> *Id.* On September 30, Plaintiff transferred from inpatient to residential treatment and Defendant again authorized and paid in-network rates. *Id.* at 7. On October 5, 2011, Defendant denied further residential treatment. *Id.* Rosewood appealed the decision, but Defendant upheld the denial. *Id.* Plaintiff decided to remain in residential treatment until January 5, 2012. *Id.* His parents paid for the additional treatment at a cost of more than \$100,000. *Id.*

7        While in residential treatment at Rosewood, Plaintiff underwent tests every week  
8 at LabCorp in Prescott, Arizona. *Id.* at 8. Defendant authorized and paid for these tests  
9 at in-network rates. *Id.* On October 5, 2011, Plaintiff had a cardiologic examination at  
10 Biltmore Cardiology in Wickenburg. *Id.* Defendant also authorized and paid for this  
11 procedure. *Id.*

12 On January 6, 2012, Plaintiff transitioned to a new facility, Rosewood Capri,  
13 which was an in-network provider in Wickenburg. *Id.* at 7-8. At Rosewood Capri,  
14 Defendant approved and paid in-network rates for Plaintiff's treatment from January 9  
15 through February 7, and from February 18 through February 25, 2012. *Id.* at 8. Plaintiff  
16 remained at Rosewood Capri until early March. *Id.*

## II. Legal Standard and Analysis.

18 Plaintiff has the burden of establishing personal jurisdiction. *See, e.g., Ziegler v.*  
19 *Indian River County*, 64 F.3d 470, 473 (9th Cir. 1995). When a court resolves a motion  
20 to dismiss for lack of personal jurisdiction without holding an evidentiary hearing, a  
21 plaintiff “need make only a prima facie showing of jurisdictional facts to withstand the  
22 motion.” *Ballard v. Savage*, 65 F.3d 1494, 1498 (9th Cir. 1995). A plaintiff must  
23 establish facts that if true would support personal jurisdiction, and disputed facts are  
24 resolved in the plaintiff’s favor. *See Doe v. Unocal*, 248 F.3d 915, 922 (9th Cir. 2001).

25 No federal statute governs personal jurisdiction, so Arizona's long-arm rules  
26 apply. *See Terracom v. Valley Nat'l Bank*, 49 F.3d 555, 559 (9th Cir. 1995). Arizona

<sup>2</sup> Under the PPO Blue Access 90 plan, Defendant pays 90% of medical treatment costs to in-network providers after the client's deductible is met. Doc. 16-2 at 2.

1 Rule of Civil Procedure 4.2(a) “provides for personal jurisdiction coextensive with the  
 2 limits of federal due process.” *Doe v. Am. Nat'l Red Cross*, 112 F.3d 1048, 1050 (9th  
 3 Cir. 1997) (citing *Batton v. Tenn. Farmers Mut. Ins. Co.*, 736 P.2d 2, 4 (Ariz. 1987)).  
 4 Federal due process requires that a defendant have certain contacts with a forum state so  
 5 that the exercise of personal jurisdiction will not offend traditional notions of fair play  
 6 and substantial justice. *See Int'l Shoe Co. v. Washington*, 326 U.S. 310, 316 (1945). “By  
 7 requiring that individuals have ‘fair warning that a particular activity may subject [them]  
 8 to the jurisdiction of a foreign sovereign,’ the Due Process Clause ‘gives a degree of  
 9 predictability to the legal system that allows potential defendants to structure their  
 10 primary conduct with some minimum assurance as to where that conduct will and will  
 11 not render them liable to suit.’” *Id.* at 270 (quoting *Burger King Corp. v. Rudzewicz*, 471  
 12 U.S. 462, 472 (1985) (internal citations omitted)). Personal jurisdiction can be either  
 13 general or specific. *See Helicopter Nacionales de Columbia v. Hall*, 466 U.S. 408, 414-  
 14 15 nn. 8-9 (1984).

15 Plaintiff claims that Defendant is subject to specific jurisdiction in Arizona.  
 16 Doc. 16 at 10. The Ninth Circuit applies a three-part test for specific jurisdiction:  
 17 (1) whether the defendant purposefully availed itself of the privileges of conducting  
 18 activities in the forum, thereby invoking the benefits and protections of its laws,  
 19 (2) whether the claim arises out of the defendant’s forum-related activities, and  
 20 (3) whether the exercise of jurisdiction would be reasonable. *See, e.g., Bancroft &*  
*Masters, Inc. v. Augusta Nat'l Inc.*, 223 F.3d 1082, 1086 (9th Cir. 2000); *Burger King*,  
 22 471 U.S. at 472-76.

23       **A. Purposeful availment.**

24 For a court to have personal jurisdiction, “it is essential . . . that there be some act  
 25 by which the defendant purposefully avails itself of the privilege of conducting activities  
 26 within the forum State[.]” *Hanson v. Denckla*, 357 U.S. 235, 253 (1958). “[T]he  
 27 purposeful availment analysis turns upon whether the defendant’s contacts are attributed  
 28 to ‘actions by the defendant *himself*,’ or conversely to the ‘unilateral activity of another

party.”” *Hirsch v. Blue Cross, Blue Shield of Kansas City*, 800 F.2d 1474, 1478 (9th Cir. 1986) (quoting *Burger King*, 471 U.S. at 463) (emphasis in original). “It is not required that a defendant be physically present within, or have physical contacts with, the forum, provided that his efforts are ‘purposefully directed’ toward forum residents.” *Hirsch*, 800 F.2d at 1478 (citation omitted). Purposeful availment is satisfied when “defendant takes deliberate actions within the forum state.” *Id.*

7 Plaintiff claims that Defendant purposely availed itself of the privilege of doing  
8 business in Arizona by contracting with Arizona medical facilities, providing in-network  
9 coverage at these facilities, and paying for Plaintiff's treatment at the in-network rate.  
10 Doc. 16 at 10. Plaintiff submits an affidavit in which he asserts that Defendant directed  
11 him to Rosewood and told him that it was an in-network provider and a contracted  
12 facility with Defendant. Doc. 16-5, ¶ 3. Plaintiff also submits a declaration from an  
13 attorney who called various Arizona facilities and was told that they had contracts with  
14 Defendant. Doc. 16-1.

15       Defendant asserts that it is a Missouri business, with no offices or employees in  
16 Arizona, and issued Plaintiff's policy in Missouri. Defendant further asserts in an  
17 affidavit provided by Elizabeth Cox that it has no contracts with any Arizona providers.  
18 Doc. 7-1 at 2.<sup>3</sup> Defendant does not explain the process by which it arranged for Plaintiff  
19 to receive care from in-network providers in Arizona, nor does it respond to Plaintiffs'  
20 declaration that he was told by Defendant that it had a contract with Rosewood. Doc. 19.

21 As noted above, Plaintiff “need make only a prima facie showing of jurisdictional  
22 facts to withstand the motion.” *Ballard*, 65 F.3d at 1498. Plaintiff must establish facts  
23 that if true would support personal jurisdiction, and disputed facts must be decided in  
24 Plaintiff’s favor. *Id.*; *Doe*, 248 F.3d at 922. Whether Defendant contracted with Arizona  
25 facilities appears to be a disputed fact in this case. For purposes of this motion to

<sup>3</sup> It is not clear from Ms. Cox's declaration whether she is an employee of Defendant or has some other business relationship with Defendant. Doc. 7-1.

1 dismiss, the Court must resolve that issue in Plaintiff's favor. *Id.*<sup>4</sup>

2 Defendant has taken deliberate action in Arizona by contracting with and  
 3 providing in-network coverage at Arizona medical facilities. Defendant has also taken  
 4 deliberate action by first approving and then paying Plaintiff's Arizona medical providers  
 5 at the in-network rates. Defendant also advertises itself as a national network, allowing  
 6 customers to take advantage of in-network facilities throughout the country. *See Doc. 16*  
 7 at 12. The Court finds the first element of specific jurisdiction satisfied.<sup>5</sup>

8 **B. "Arising out of" forum-related activities.**

9 The Ninth Circuit has adopted a "but for" test to determine whether a plaintiff's  
 10 cause of action arises out of a defendant's forum-related activities. *See Omeluk*, 52 F.3d  
 11 at 271. The requirement is met if, "but for" the contacts between the defendant and the  
 12 forum state, the cause of action would not have arisen. *See Terracom*, 49 F.3d at 561.

13 The "but for" test is satisfied here. Defendant contracted with at least one Arizona  
 14 facility to provide in-network coverage to Plaintiff, and then ceased paying for that  
 15 coverage. Had Defendant not provided in-network coverage in Arizona, Plaintiff states  
 16 that he would have sought out an in-network facility. Doc. 16-5, ¶ 3. Plaintiff also  
 17 suggests that he would not have purchased the insurance policy from Defendant without  
 18 Defendant's express representation that the plan would travel with him and provide  
 19 coverage throughout the United States. *Id.* at ¶ 2.

20 **C. Reasonableness.**

21 An unreasonable exercise of jurisdiction violates the Due Process Clause even if

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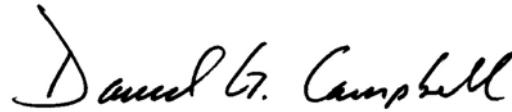
23 <sup>4</sup> Defendant also claims in its reply brief that provisions within the insurance  
 24 contract prohibit jurisdiction in Arizona. Doc. 19 at 8-10. The Court will not consider  
 25 arguments made for the first time in a reply brief. *See Bach v. Forever Living Prods.*  
*U.S., Inc.*, 473 F.Supp.2d 1110, 1122 n. 6 (W.D. Wash. 2007); *Gadda v. State Bar of*  
*Cal.*, 511 F.3d 933, 937 n. 2 (9th Cir. 2007).

26 <sup>5</sup> Defendant quotes extensively from Judge Snow's transfer-of-venue decision in  
 27 *Angel Jet Services, LLC v. Red Dot Bldg. Systems' Employee Benefit Plan*, CV-09-2133-  
 28 PHX-GMS (D. Ariz. Feb. 8, 2010). Judge Snow's analysis is distinguishable, however,  
 because he applied general jurisdiction principles, which require continuous and  
 systematic forum contacts, not specific jurisdiction principles.

1 the “purposeful availment” and “arising out of” requirements of specific jurisdiction are  
2 satisfied. *See Int'l Shoe*, 326 U.S. at 316; *Ziegler*, 64 F.3d at 474-75. A district court  
3 presumes, however, that its exercise of jurisdiction over a defendant is reasonable if the  
4 first two requirements are met. *See Ballard*, 65 F.3d at 1500. The burden of proof shifts  
5 when the first two requirements are met, and the defendant must ““present a compelling  
6 case that the presence of some other considerations would render jurisdiction  
7 unreasonable.”” *Id.* (quoting *Burger King*, 471 U.S. at 477). Defendant does not address  
8 the reasonableness requirement, and therefore has not met its burden of showing that  
9 exercising jurisdiction over it in this case would be unreasonable.

10 **IT IS ORDERED** that Defendant’s motion to dismiss (Doc. 7) is **denied**.

11 Dated this 22nd day of August, 2013.

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16 David G. Campbell  
17 United States District Judge  
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